GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:876
ANSWERED ON:21.11.2016
Downfall in quality of Education
Raghavan Shri M. K.

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development has reported that there is a substantial downfall in the quality of education in the country;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether the Government envisages to ensure equitable quality education as stipulated under the sustainable development goals;
(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and
(e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(DR. MAHENDRA NATH PANDEY)

(a) to (e): Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in its Report dated 09.02.2015 has stated that India shall continue improving access to education, especially at the secondary level, and improve the quality of education. The UN Sustainable Development Goal 4 with target year 2013 states "Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning".
The vision of the Ministry is to realize India's human resource potential to its fullest in the education sector with equity and inclusion. The Government is committed to provide equitable access to quality education to all sections of the society. Having nearly reached the goals of universalizing elementary education, and making substantial gains in expanding access to secondary and higher education, the focus is on improving the quality of education at all levels. Several initiatives are currently being undertaken in this direction. In elementary education, the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) programme aims for improvements in school infrastructure and in teaching and learning. Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), ICT in Schools, Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Teacher Education (CSSTE), Shaala Siddhi, Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan are being implemented to improve the quality of secondary education. In higher education also, various schemes ,namely, Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), Global Initiative for Academics Network (GIAN), Impacting Research, Innovation & Technology (IMPRINT), Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme(TEQIP), Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya National Mission on Teachers and Teaching (PMMMNMTT), Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM), National Digital Library, campus connect programme, Uchhatar Avishkar Abhiyan, Unnat Bharat Abhiyan are being implemented to improve the quality of higher education. To promote objective assessment of performance annually, Government has launched the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) in September 2015. A number of initiatives are also undertaken by UGC and AICTE for quality improvement in higher and technical education.
The Government had initiated the process of formulating a New Education Policy to meet the changing dynamics of the population's requirement with regard to quality education, innovation and research, aiming to make India a knowledge superpower by equipping its students with the necessary skills and knowledge and to eliminate the shortage of manpower in science, technology, academics and industry.
For formulating the New Education Policy (NEP), , the Government has carried out nearly a yearlong highly participative, inclusive and multi-pronged consultation process, through online, grassroots and thematic expert consultations across 33 identified themes. Meetings were held with Government of India Ministries and State Governments. Six zonal meetings were also held on NEP with the State Education Ministers, State Education Secretaries and other state officials. The Ministry had constituted a Committee for Evolution of the New Education Policy which submitted its report in May, 2016. Thereafter the Ministry has formulated 'Some Inputs for the Draft National Education Policy, 2016' on which comments/suggestions were invited from the Government of India Ministries, State Government, Hon'ble Members of Parliament and other stakeholders up to 30th September, 2016. A Committee under an eminent educationist will be appointed to prepare final draft NEP.

****